

SENATE BILL 46

By Summerville

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7; Title 49, Chapter 8 and Title 49, Chapter 9, relative to diversity officers at public institutions of higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-7-1__.

(a) No public institution of higher education shall employ any person as a diversity officer or assign the duties of a diversity officer to any employee.

(b) A diversity officer is an employee whose primary responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

(1) Promoting diversity, equality and inclusion at the institution;

(2) Assuring implementation of policies with respect to and

monitoring of compliance with:

(A) Federal laws on diversity and equality, including, but not limited to, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 2000(d) and 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2 respectively, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, codified at 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq., the Americans with Disabilities Act, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, codified at 29 U.S.C. § 621 et seq;

(B) State statutes and regulations on diversity and equality, including, but not limited to, title 4, chapter 21; and

(C) Institutional diversity policies; and

(3) Addressing complaints of discrimination and violations of federal laws, state laws and institutional policies.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.